

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 01563 061344Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 CU-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 FBO-02
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00
OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-05
/101 W

-----061416Z 047268 /46

P R 061220Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8770
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 1563

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING MAY DAY BLOODSHED

1. TENSION CONTINUES IN ISTANBUL IN WAKE OF BLOODY EVENTS OF MAY 1 (REFTELS).# IN PARTICULAR WITH APPROACH OF MAY 6 ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF THREE TURKISH PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY MEMBERS, POLICE WARNED THAT TERRORIST ACTIONS WERE EXPECTED. VARIOUS SCHOOLS INCLUDING FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS RECEIVED THREATS OF VIOLENCE ON ANNIVERSARY AND NUMBER OF THEM SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED CLASSES ON MAY 6. CITY'S UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES WERE SHUT DOWN FOR ENTIRE WEEK IMMEDIATELY AFTER MAY 1 INCIDENT TO AVOID POSSIBILITY OF RETALIATORY CLASHES BETWEEN LEFTIST STUDENT FACTIONS. NIGHT OF MAY 5 THREE BOMBS EXPLODED AT TWO HOTELS AND ONE BANK BRANCH OFFICE. ONE OF TARGETS WAS INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL ON TAKSIM SQUARE WHICH LOST MANY OF ITS FRONT WINDOWS FROM GUNFIRE DURING MAY DAY VIOMENCE. FORTUNATELY NO ONE WAS INJURED IN ANY OF EXPLOSIONS.

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2. PUTTING SOME 20 PUBLIC PROSECUTORS ON THE CASE GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED MASSIVE INVESTIGATION OF CONTROVERSIAL AND POLITICALLY CHARGED MAY DAY INCIDENT. AMONG FIRST CALLED FOR TESTIMONY WERE PRESIDENT OF LEFTIST LABOR CONFEDERATION WHICH ORGANIZED RALLY, KEMAL TURKLER, AND MAYOR OF ISTANBUL, AHMET ISVAN. AFTER TESTIFYING, TURLER REITERATED PREVIOUS CHARGE THAT AMERICAN

CIA HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN PROVOKING MAY DAY VIOLENCE. MAYOR WHO WAS ONLY PROMINENT POLITICIAN WHO ATTENDED RALLY MAY BE CHARGED WITH HAVING ILLEGALLY PROVIDED MUNICIPAL VEHICLES FOR USE OF RALLY ORGANIZERS. OF SUSPECTS DETAINED BY POLICE DURING AND AFTER THE MAY DAY INCIDENT (SOME PAPERS SAY AS MANY AS 450) MOST HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND 17 HAVE BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED. MAY 4 THREE POLICEMEN WERE WOUNDED, ONE OF THEM SERIOUSLY, AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO ARREST EXTREMISTS SUSPECTED OF BEING AMONG "MAOISTS" WHO INITIATED MAY DAY ATTACK.

3. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPERS, AUTOPSY ON VICTIMS OF BLOODSHED REVEALED THAT OF 34 KILLED ONLY THREE DIED OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS, FIVE MORE WERE KILLED BY SEVERE BLOWS TO THE HEAD AND THE REMAINDER WERE APPARENTLY TRAMPLED IN THE PANIC WHICH INSUED WHEN FIRING BROKE OUT IN THE CROWD OF MORE THAN 150,000 PERSONS.

OGDEN

NOTE BY OC/T: # REFTELS OMISSION AS RECEIVED

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